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SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE

Section 1, Special Branch

REPORT

Date October 17, 1940

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
SP. BR. REGISTRY

No. *File No. 1*

G. 504-1-39

Subject. Mrs A.F. Chernovaloff - antecedents and activities.

Made by. D.S.I. Prokofiev. Forwarded by. D.I. Crawford.

Enquiries show that a Russian female named Alla Petrovna CHERNOVALOFF nee Mahaboff is residing at 49 Wha Kee Avenue where she occupies Room No. 10. She was born on 23-5-1911 at Nagasaki, Japan, and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs P.S. Mahaboff who arrived in Shanghai from the North some time in 1920 or 1921. Styling himself an ex-Lieut.-Colonel of the Russian army Mahaboff soon came to the notice of the Municipal Police as a fraud and adventurer in connection with his activities as a partner in the "Oriental Engineering Co" and also in connection with certain financial claims and grievances he appeared to have against Ataman Semenov. On 3-8-1923 he was sentenced by the old Mixed Court to 3 months imprisonment on a charge of Cheating and Fraud. His wife was dead by that time and therefore his daughter Alla was placed in the Foreign Women's Cottage Home, Baikal Road. However, her conduct was such that she was told to leave the place. Later she was found ^{living} leaving in a house in company with certain Italian and Russian males and females who were connected with arms and narcotic smuggling, and who were quite friendly with Mahaboff. Apparently, Miss Mahaboff's education left very much to be desired, for in police reports of that time she was described as a girl leading a loose life. While in gaol her father applied to the police authorities with a request to place the girl in a reformatory and referred to her in equally unflattering terms. Some time in 1926 Mahaboff departed from Shanghai for

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the north. During the winter of the same year he is reported to have visited Harbin styling himself a representative of Ataman Semenoff.

According to a registration form filled in by Miss Mahaboff at the Russian Migrants Committee in 1932, she had at that time relatives in Pairen. In 1934 she resided at 637 Avenue Joffre, House 9. On 16-7-35 she arrived at 268 Range Road coming from Chefoo. It appears that at that time she worked as a professional dancing partner.

On 16-2-36 she married a Russian named M.F. Chernovaloff (born on 16-4-1910 at Odessa) who is reported to have arrived in Shanghai from the U.S.S.R. via Harbin in 1932 and from 1-4-32 to 1-5-37 served in the Russian Regiment, S.V.V. It appears that Mrs Chernovaloff either continued to work as a dancing partner or resumed her former occupation soon after her husband's discharge from the Russian Regiment. In 1939 she is known to have worked in this capacity in the Moon Palace, 601 East Broadway and to have for various periods resided at 46 Broadway, 50/8 Ward Road and 161 Muirhead Road. On 1-2-40 she went to live at 49 Wha Kee Avenue and worked as a dancing partner in the Majestic Cafe for a period, after which she is reported to have been "kept" by a foreigner, name and nationality unknown. Together with her lived another Russian female named Nina Sheltrop, 20, also a dancing partner, who was believed to be Mrs. Chernovalova's relation and who committed suicide on 31-3-40.

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House No.49 Wha Tee Avenue is a licensed board-
ing house owned by one Mrs F. Grinshpoon, Russian Jewess,
amongst the inmates of the house all sorts of people may
be found -Chinese, Koreans, Japanese, Russians, German re-
fugees and other foreigners, including members of U.S. Na-
vy.

While in Shanghai Miss Chernovaloff has not come
to the notice of the Municipal Police in connection with
any ~~undesirable~~ ^{criminal} activities and enquiries have failed to
elicit any information which might suggest that she is
in any way connected with any political activities.

A. Trokofiev
D.S.I.

D. C. (Special Branch).

INDEXED BY
(S. B.) REGISTRY
DATE 18/10/40

ELIZAVETA A. CHERNOVALOVA

House of 9

Shirley Lee Lane.

CORP. R. A. GUSSENHOVEN.